

QUWF



Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation

Making a Difference for Wildlife and Clean Streams, One Acre, One Stream, at a Time

THE HABITAT GUIDE

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation

Notes from the Dashboard: Is the sale of public-owned lands the BIG problem?

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*The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's 78th annual spring breeding duck survey conducted in May showed an index of about 2.66 million birds, down from 2.9 million in 2024 and 3.4 million in 2023, **Page 7***

*The Sportsmen's Alliance has released more evidence of corruption and collusion among members of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. The most recent evidence is explained in two short videos highlighting wrongdoing by commissioners in emails and text messages exposed by the lawsuit the Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation was forced to file to uncover the egregious behavior of those dictating wildlife policy in the Evergreen State, **Page 18***

*QUWF encourages the search to find Made in the U.S.A. product lines for purchases. With the supply chain tariff turmoil and many companies totally relying on parts or entire products lines from foreign companies, we support American made products and companies for the outdoor, hunting and shooting industry, **Page 20***



By Craig Alderman — We see much in the outdoor media about the opposition of the sale of 3 to 5 million acres of public lands as part of the government reduction budget proposed. Is it the big problem? In the west, it is an issue for hunters, I totally agree. BUT, pay attention, all in the outdoor industry, that is not the BIG PROBLEM.

We are losing private lands exponentially greater than the public lands. *In Missouri alone* in 2024, we lost 14,900 farms totaling over 2.2 million acres. In 2023 we lost 12,000 farms and 1.9 million acres. Wake up, the land is not going to new hands in agriculture. It is being sold off to developers or corporate farms that do not give diddly squat about wildlife, wildlife borders, edge feathering, or opening the land to hunting.

As I have stated before the USDA states in the next 3 to 5 years over 45% of agricultural lands will change hands. *Children of farmers ARE NOT*, for the most part, interested in working 24/7/365 in an industry they watched wear down their mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers for an income level, with much less expense, they can beat rather easily and with substantially less stress. The stress level is nonstop, finances are ever tight and never enough, weather fights them all year, the middleman makes the profits, machinery costs and supplies have tripled in the last few years, and no one seems to care.

Well educated ag and conservation students, FFA leaders, with the right background of small farms will tell you, "We cannot afford to buy land, equipment, livestock or crop needs." And, that is true, plus it is getting worse.

Another growth in land acquisition, the more affluent buying property for private hunting and enjoyment, who WILL NOT open it to the general public for hunting, ever.

Conservation organizations in the majority focus on the user of the resources for the revenue flow, the hunter, the angler but not the landowner who owns 90% + of the acres the wildlife needs to survive and thrive.

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Continued from Page 1 — The conservation models get sponsorships by selling “products, inventions, clothing, dog food, you name it for the hunter or angler member who heads out once or twice a year. Who helps the landowner?”

QUWF was formed to do just that, help all veteran and private landowners and their families in any way we can. It is an open battle to get support for these landowners as we cannot sell 1,000 crossbows (an actual statement) yet we work with landowners who own 200,000 acres + and want nothing to do with federal or state programs. Further, when these farmers, ranchers or landowners buy something, a tractor, wagon, trailer, pick up, planter, sprayer, it may last for generations as they fix and repair everything to conserve money. Therefore, sponsorships by the real companies who could help are non-existent, except for corporate farms.

One would think the manufacturers of the resource user products, guns, ammo, clothing, optics, you name it, would want to preserve the lands they depend on for users to buy their “stuff”, nope, not on their marketing flow chart. We used to call it “long term business insurance”, preserving the real asset that generates your demand. There are very few companies that help in small ways, but no one, not one, really understands the issue.

Most states Fish and Wildlife Agencies are focused on their public lands with federal programs they can get financing from with little or no true checks and balances from the source. True private lands and the “people”, the families dedicated to a hard lifestyle get little support with lots of political volleyball.

When the land is gone, there are no options; when the families are gone that love and work the lands for our food and wildlife, the wildlife is gone.

We had better fight for the private landowners, farmers, ranchers and crop producers and help them preserve the land and wildlife.

Catch you across the creek.

Craig Alderman is the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation executive director.

2025-26 dove, band-tailed pigeon regs online

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) has posted the “2025-2026 Arizona Dove and Band-tailed Pigeon Regulations” at www.azgfd.com/hunting/regulations.

In addition, the “2025-2026 Arizona Waterfowl and Snipe Regulations” and “2025-2026 Arizona Trapping Regulations” can be found on the department’s website.

The dove and band-tailed pigeon regulations are produced in a downloadable format that hunters will find handy in the field. A glossy, color brochure, now available at [license dealers](#) statewide (call in advance for availability), contains important hunting information, such as season dates, daily bag and possession limits, and legal requirements, at a glance.

All hunters 18 and older must possess a valid Arizona hunting license, as well as a migratory bird stamp for the 2025-2026 season — both of which can be purchased at www.azgfd.com/license/. A combination hunt and fish license for youth hunters 10 to 17 is only \$5 and includes a migratory bird stamp.

Dove hunters play an important role in conservation. [Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration](#) (WSFR) program funds are excise taxes collected on the sale of hunting and fishing equipment (including 11 percent on ammunition), the benefit of which comes right back to Arizona for habitat improvements, shooting ranges, boating access and more.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department receives no general fund tax dollars. The majority of funding to manage more than 800 native wildlife species comes from Arizona's hunters and anglers.



Tick solution startup TiCK MiTT widens footprint

Editor's Note: Ticks are a major health problem in the central Midwest, as well as the east coast. They are not to be taken lightly. The diseases they carry CAN BE LIFE THREATENING. If you are bitten and the tell tale large red area develops or you develop other symptoms, get to a doctor quickly and ENSURE they run a FULL TICK PANEL.

In my family, my wife, daughter, and one son have tick-borne diseases. My daughter has suffered well over 9 years and is also allergic to Benadryl. My wife has been fighting it for 4 years, my son for 5 years. None of them can eat red meat of any kind, only fish, chicken or turkey. The mere smell of cooking meat like a BBQ makes them all sick, and fast. Anything, any product to help the fight is a good thing.

TiCK MiTT, the tick solutions company, that is on a mission to reduce cases of tick-borne diseases through innovative, chemical-free products, announced today that it will soon launch in Pet Valu stores across Canada. Warmer temperatures are driving consumers to enjoy the great outdoors with their four-legged friends in environments where ticks are thriving and living longer. TiCK MiTT is lightweight, reusable, and essential for finding and removing ticks off clothing, pet fur or gear before they embed, reducing the risk of contracting a tick-borne disease. The company recently took the fight on ticks into the tank, appearing on the season finale of "Shark Tank" on May 16.

Pet Valu is known as Canada's leading retailer of pet food and pet-related supplies with over 700 corporate-owned or franchised locations across the country. For more than 40 years, Pet Valu has earned the trust and loyalty of pet parents by offering knowledgeable customer service, a premium product offering and engaging in-store services. The pet-focused giant is set to carry TiCK MiTT throughout their corporate-owned stores beginning this month.

TiCK MiTT, headquartered in New York City but with distribution internationally, was co-founded by former Magnolia Bakery CEO and entrepreneur Steve Abrams and his daughter Olivia Abrams. The Abrams family dealt with the chronic effects of Lyme Disease following Olivia's diagnosis at the age of seven. The TiCK MiTT is a labor of love in its mission to help other families and their pets take all the necessary precautions to reduce the risk of contracting a vector-borne disease, including the most common, Lyme Disease.

"The threat of ticks has steadily been on an alarming rise, but it doesn't have to be," said Olivia Abrams, CEO and Co-Founder of TiCK MiTT, who was named a 2025 Forbes 30 Under 30 for Social Impact. "We're on a mission to make tick solutions accessible and educate the public on tick safety and prevention. As you enjoy your time outdoors this spring or summer, we want to make sure you're fully equipped with what you need. We're thrilled to announce this partnership with Pet Valu, which has been a trusted household name for decades."

According to the non-profit Project Lyme, an estimated 14 percent of the global population has been diagnosed with Lyme. Due to the lack of standardized testing and many inaccurate diagnoses, that number is

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Continued from Page 3 — likely significantly higher with more than 500,000 estimated annual cases of Lyme Disease across the U.S. and Canada. Cases of Lyme Disease continue to rise with rising global temperatures as a result of climate change.

TiCK MiTT, which launched two years ago, retails for \$19.99 and was also named the 2024 Product of the Year at the [Outdoor Retailer Summer](#) spectacular in Utah for its reusable fabric design. The TiCK MiTT is available in multiple colors, with additional products in development and set to launch soon. In June 2025, the brand launched a smaller version for younger outdoor enthusiasts, [TiCK MiTT KiDS](#), just in time for the busy season of summer camp, hiking sports and experiencing the great outdoors.

In addition to Pet Valu, TiCK MiTT also recently launched on [Chewy.com](#), Dunham's Sports, Duluth Trading Company, Fleet Farm, in hundreds of independent pet stores, hardware, outdoor, and lawns & garden stores throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and South Korea.

A video of how to use the TiCK MiTT can be found here: <https://youtu.be/52wSGTfTOqk>. For more information on TiCK MiTT, visit www.tickmitt.com or its social media channels, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), and [YouTube](#).



AR commission approves '26 turkey season changes

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission unanimously approved regulations to modify turkey season dates and zones for the 2026 turkey hunting season at Thursday's official meeting, which was held at Golden Glo Studio in Camden. The regulation creates five turkey zones, offering slightly different opening days in various regions of the state.

The 2026 Turkey Hunting Season will be as follows:

- Zone 1: April 20-May 10, 2026
- Zone 1A: April 20-28, 2026
- Zone 2: April 13-May 3, 2026
- Zone 2A: April 13-21, 2026
- Zone 3: April 6-26, 2026

The Special Youth Turkey Hunt will be available April 11-12 in zones 1, 1A, 2 and 2A. No Special Youth Turkey Hunt will be available in Zone 3.



Remembering Frank R. Brownell III (1939-2025)

The Brownells sadly announce the death of long-time family patriarch Frank Brownell, who successively held the positions of President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board at Brownells.

Frank passed away in Grinnell, Iowa on June 18, 2025, after a lengthy illness. He was six days shy of his 86th birthday.

For nearly six decades, Frank's passion, vision, and generosity shaped not only Brownells, but the entire firearms community. Friends and customers alike remember him greeting "long lines of friends" at SHOT Show and the NRA Annual Meetings, championing gunsmithing, and driving industry innovation.

"Frank was the kind of person who made you better just by being around him." Pete Brownell, CEO of Brownells and Frank's son.

A Life of Service and Contribution

Born June 24, 1939, in Montezuma, Iowa, the second child and only son of Brownells founder Bob and his wife Lois, Frank grew up in Iowa and became involved in both the family business and the American gun industry at an early age. Frank graduated magna-cum-laude with a degree in Advertising from the University of Iowa in 1961 before serving aboard the USS Caliente (AO-53) as a U.S. Navy reservist.



In 1965, he joined Brownells full-time, laying out Big Book Catalog #18, and soon helped publish the first Gunsmith Kinks book in 1969 under the name F. Brownell and Son.

Frank became President in 1983, CEO in 2007, and Chairman of the Board in 2012, guiding Brownells for more than 40 years.

From marketing the now-iconic Latigo Sling at the 1964 NRA convention to elevating gunsmithing as a respected profession, his influence can be seen in countless shops, ranges, and workbenches across America.

A Legacy of Character

Beyond titles and accolades, Frank was cherished for his kindness, integrity, and infectious enthusiasm. Frank Brownell was a Navy veteran, a business leader, and a stalwart supporter of our unique American rights guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment.

An industry innovator, he helped establish Brownells as a nationwide legacy retailer in the gunsmithing, gun parts, and firearms space. He helped advance the best model for working with and developing endemic industry media. He advocated for elevating gunsmithing to a respected profession and created new ways to support and develop the growth of gunsmithing, gun ownership, and gun culture.

Frank is survived by his three sons, Bob, Pete, and Matt Brownell, and their families.



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Maryland legislators attend shooting sports ed

Editor's Note: We commend Benelli and others for building stronger bridges. One cannot forget the most important player in the game, private landowners, whose lands are 95% of this country in Agriculture, Forestry or Crop Production. We must all quickly reach out to this backbone of wildlife habitat and populations to preserve the heritage.

Maryland delegates from both sides of the aisle attended an afternoon of education, target shooting and fun on June 16 at the Loch Raven Skeet and Trap Center in Phoenix, Maryland. Hosted by sporting industry professionals, the event was organized to help attendees better understand the relationship between shooting sports retailers, manufacturers and recreational shooters. Legislators included existing shooting sports enthusiasts and those unfamiliar to the sport.

Fun was provided in the form of professional instruction on how to break fast-moving clay targets with shotguns. Alongside the challenge of clay shooting, discussions were had on the positive economic impact from shooting sports that are enjoyed by thousands of participants across Maryland every year.

Sponsors included manufacturers Benelli USA, Stoeger Industries, Beretta USA and Norma Ammunition. Highland Sporting Outfitter represented the voice of the outdoor retailer and the National Shooting Sports Foundation was on hand as a national advocate and educational organization dedicated to the enjoyment of safe and responsible recreational sport shooting.

“We thank our legislators who came to this event today for their engagement and participation,” said Dr. Christopher Kopacki of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF). “By attending, they are they seeing first-hand the passion and professionalism that many people have regarding shooting sports. We also hope they come away with a better understanding of the many important and rigorous protections already in place to ensure responsible firearm ownership. Above all, we are grateful for their willingness to have this discussion in an open and collaborative setting.”

For more information on Benelli USA's full line of premium shotguns and centerfire hunting rifles, visit [BenelliUSA.com](https://www.BenelliUSA.com).



N. Dakota breeding duck numbers decline again

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's 78th annual spring breeding duck survey conducted in May showed an index of about 2.66 million birds, down from 2.9 million in 2024 and 3.4 million in 2023.

The 2025 breeding duck index was the 33rd highest on record and exceeded the long-term (1948-2024) average by 7%, according to Mike Szymanski, Department migratory game bird supervisor.

“Things are continuing to decline a little bit as far as duck populations go. The mallard population estimate was down 26% from last year and is the lowest estimated mallard breeding population on our survey since 1993,” Szymanski said. “Blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and pintails also had significant population declines, whereas the declines for gadwall, shovelers and ruddy ducks were not as significant. We did have a few species – wigeon, canvasbacks, redheads and lesser scaup – that showed increases from last year on our survey.”

Szymanski said there are a few things factoring into the declines, including poor wetland conditions for early migrating species like mallards and pintails. Many of these birds, which arrived in North Dakota before the nourishing rains in May, likely spurned the state because of dry conditions and headed to search for breeding areas farther north. Also, the decline in breeding duck numbers has a lot to do with the loss of CRP and perennial grasses on the landscape used for nesting cover by ducks.



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Continued from Page 7 — “We’ve lost so much grass on the landscape that it makes it really hard for duck populations and other ground-nesting birds to do well,” Szymanski said. “One metric we look at is going back to 1994 to 2016 when we had really good wetland conditions and a lot of grass, a lot of CRP on the landscape. Our total duck population is now down 34% from that time period’s average, and our mallard breeding population in North Dakota is down 57% from that average. Those are pretty significant declines.”

Like in year’s past, Szymanski and crew covered more than 1,800 miles of transects counting wetlands and waterfowl down to the species and social grouping on both sides of the road. This spring, the wetland count was the 52nd highest on record but was down 38% from last year.

“We do our survey based on phenology and migration ecology of ducks coming through the state and this year it happened to be timed before we got quite a bit of rain later in May. So, not having much snow melt in the spring, our wetland counts were down quite a bit,” he said. “Conditions were pretty dry and that affected how ducks settled in the state. The western third of the state was very dry and then the eastern two thirds of the state was still quite dry, but a little bit better when we ran the survey.”

Szymanski reiterated that for duck populations to rebound in North Dakota and provide good opportunities for hunters, more grass and water are needed.

“North Dakota is the duck factory of the United States and North America. We have a lot of folks relying on us to produce ducks, not just our hunters here in North Dakota, but hunters all across the Central and Mississippi flyways,” he said. “When we have poor production in North Dakota, other folks feel it as well. Unfortunately, the direction we’re going right now is smaller and smaller fall flights.”

As always, Szymanski cautions waterfowl hunters about reading too much into our survey numbers just yet. He said that while the Mid-continent duck populations aren’t what they once were, we’ll know more once the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service releases their fall survey area results sometime in early fall.

“And we’ll see how July goes when we do our duck brood survey,” he said. “Wetland conditions are a little bit improved from where they were in early May, but they’re still not great. We likely would have had disastrous production if we didn’t get the rain we got. Hopefully, having some fair wetland conditions going into June will help us out and get a little duck production this year.”

Ruger LCP MAX pistols now available with manual safety

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. (NYSE: RGR) is excited to introduce two new manual safety models of the LCP® MAX. Both pistols (models 13749 and 13754) are equipped with an easy-to-use manual safety on the left side of the frame. Model 13754 also includes a magazine disconnect and loaded chamber indicator on the top of the slide that allows for visual confirmation of a loaded or empty chamber.

Both models feature the same matte stainless slide featuring polished sides resulting in crisp cocking serrations, and the textured grip frame provides a secure and comfortable grip. The tritium front sight with white outline

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Continued from Page 8 — makes for fast acquisition in all light conditions, and the rear sight features a generous u-notch for easy alignment and a square front face for one-handed cocking. Sight dovetails are sized to accept aftermarket Bodyguard-pattern sights.

LCP MAX pistols feature improved magazine feed lips, feed ramp, extractor, and barrel cam geometries. The patented barrel cam geometry delays unlocking, slows the slide, and ultimately reduces felt recoil compared to other 380 Auto pistols. Both models utilize Ruger's safe, reliable and proven Secure Action™ fire-control system that combines a protected internal hammer with a bladed-safety trigger. The trigger has a short, smooth pull, clean break and positive reset. They have a reversible magazine release, and both models ship with one 10-round magazine, a soft pocket holster, and a magazine loader.

Compact and lightweight, the LCP MAX continues to be the definitive pocket-sized personal protection pistol.

For more information on the LCP MAX or to learn more about the extensive line of award-winning Ruger firearms, visit Ruger.com, [Facebook.com/Ruger](https://www.facebook.com/Ruger) or [Instagram.com/Rugersofficial](https://www.instagram.com/Rugersofficial). To find accessories for the LCP MAX and other Ruger firearms, visit ShopRuger.com or your local independent retailer of Ruger firearms.



PA hunting licenses for 2025-26 go on sale June 23

Hunting and furtaker licenses for Pennsylvania's 2025-26 seasons go on sale Monday, June 23, but there will be plenty of time for hunters to get them without waiting.

As in recent years, antlerless deer licenses will be available when general license sales open. But this year, all Pennsylvania residents are guaranteed to get an antlerless license for the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) of their choice, so long as they buy it by 7 a.m. on Monday, July 14, the day license sales open to nonresidents. That's three full weeks for resident hunters to find a convenient time to buy and avoid waits.

Once sales to nonresidents begin on Monday, July 14 at 8 a.m., antlerless licenses no longer will be guaranteed, and all remaining sales will be on a first come, first serve basis until the allocated number of licenses is exhausted.

The second round of antlerless sales, at which time resident and nonresident hunters can buy a second antlerless license for any WMU where licenses remain, begins on Monday, July 28 at 8 a.m.

The third round begins at 8 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 11. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits also go on sale when the third round begins.

During the fourth round of antlerless sales, which begins Monday, Aug. 25 at 8 a.m., hunters can purchase additional antlerless licenses for any WMU where licenses are available.

In most of the state, hunters may hold up to six unfilled licenses at a time. Once reaching that limit, they are not able to buy additional licenses until they use tags by harvesting deer and reporting them. There's a higher limit, however, for WMUs 5C and 5D in southeastern Pennsylvania. There, hunters may hold up to 15 unfilled antlerless licenses at a time. In these highly developed WMUs where there's less public land and limited hunting access, a higher limit helps hunters better seize opportunities to harvest antlerless deer.

All hunters can view the number of remaining antlerless licenses in real time at HuntFish.PA.gov by clicking on the Antlerless Deer tab, then [Antlerless Deer Quota](#). As antlerless license sales progress, tracking sales gives a clear sense of how fast licenses for a given WMU are selling, and how urgent it might be to buy one soon. But in the first round of antlerless sales, resident hunters know they have three weeks to make their purchase.

Licenses may be purchased online at HuntFish.PA, or in person from any [license-issuing agent](#), locations for which are mapped on HuntFish.PA. Paper licenses and harvest tags are mailed when bought online.

VT migratory game bird seasons announced

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has announced the 2025-2026 migratory game bird hunting season dates and bag limits.

A printable copy of the [Migratory Bird Syllabus](#) can be downloaded from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's [website](#) under "Hunt" – "Waterfowl." A printed version also will be available from [license agents](#) and post offices in August.

A statewide Vermont open hunting season for resident Canada geese will occur September 1-25. The daily bag limit is five Canada geese in the Connecticut River Zone and eight in the rest of the state during this September season. The purpose of the September season is to help control Vermont's resident Canada goose population prior to the arrival of Canada geese migrating south from Canada.

A second Canada goose hunting season for resident and migrant geese will be held October 11-November 9 in the Lake Champlain and Interior Zones with a daily bag limit of one Canada goose.

In the Connecticut River Zone, the second Canada goose season will be October 13-November 11 and November 27-December 26 with a daily bag limit of two Canada geese.

A late Canada goose season will be held Dec. 1-Jan. 19 in the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones and Dec. 27-Jan. 15 in the Vermont land of the Connecticut River Zone (does not include Connecticut River waters). The daily bag limit in all three zones will be five Canada geese.

Duck season this fall opens on October 11 in the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones and on October 13 in the Connecticut River Zone. The Lake Champlain Zone has a split season of Oct. 11-Nov. 2 and Nov. 22-Dec. 28. The Interior Vermont Zone has a straight season of Oct. 11 Dec. 9.

Scaup daily bag limits vary by season dates. The Lake Champlain (Oct. 11-Nov. 2 & Nov. 22-Dec. 8) and Interior (Oct. 11-Nov. 19) zones allow the harvest of one scaup daily. The remainder of the season you are allowed two scaup daily. Within the Connecticut River Zone, you are allowed only one scaup daily for the entire season.

Vermont's youth waterfowl hunting weekend will be September 27 and 28. Resident and nonresident hunters 17 years of age or younger on those dates may hunt ducks and geese within the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones during this weekend while accompanied by an adult 18 or older. In the Connecticut River Zone, youth must be 15 years of age or younger on those dates. Both adult and youth must have Vermont hunting licenses. The adult may not hunt or carry a firearm. Youth ages 16 and 17 must have a Vermont Migratory Waterfowl tag and federal duck stamp.

Woodcock hunting season is September 27- November 10 statewide with a three-bird bag limit.

In addition to a hunting license, a waterfowl hunter 16 or older must carry a current federal duck stamp and Vermont Migratory Waterfowl tag to hunt waterfowl in Vermont. Federal stamps are sold at post offices, federal refuges, or online from the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#). State Migratory Waterfowl tags are available on Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website and from license agents. The hunter must sign the federal duck stamp.

All migratory game bird (woodcock, ducks and geese) hunters must also be registered with the [Harvest Information Program \(H.I.P.\)](#) in each state they hunt. You can register on Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website or call toll-free 1-877-306-7091. After providing some basic information, you will receive your annual H.I.P. registration number, which is then recorded on your hunting license.

The hunting season dates, bag limits and related regulations for all migratory birds are set annually within a framework established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and in coordination with New York and New Hampshire.

Waterfowl season dates and bag limits are set in three zones: Lake Champlain, Interior Vermont, and Connecticut River. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department sets the season dates and bag limits for the Connecticut River Zone.

Notes from the Road:

Landowners continue to see positive responses to timber openings



By Nick Prough — Many times, we do a project, whether that be on our farm or our house or our work, or with our kids, and then we often have to wait a certain time period, sometimes a long time period, to see any results. That is many times the case with quite a few wildlife management practices as it often takes a while to see the results of your management efforts; however, with the management practice of wildlife timber openings (WTO) that we have talked about before in previous articles, the responses by certain wildlife species can occur very quickly and in fact sometimes almost overnight.

If you go plant a Native Warm Season Grass (NWSG) field during the spring, many times it can take 2-3 years or longer to see the results of your management efforts and sometimes can be even longer than that depending on specific weather conditions on the landscape during that long waiting period. We in fact have all heard of landowners waiting for 3-4 years to see a new stand of NWSG they planted and stared at for many years watching what they thought was a failed stand. However, as stated above, doing some quick and simple WTO management (much like the quick and easy meal craze we see endless ads on — we all like quick and easy) and by creating these wildlife timber openings in a specific track of land you have some timber on or a woodland lot on the back 40 on, you many times can have almost instantaneous results.

More often than not, a wide variety of species will begin using these areas very quickly such as deer, wild turkey, and yes, even quail many times finding and utilizing that new usable space, which many landowners this spring continue to report and see from their intensive game camera surveys that many of them conduct. This summer I have had numerous landowners reporting very fast results from the wildlife timber openings they have recently created and many have been truly amazed at both the diversity of wildlife species utilizing them but also the numbers of each species that not only visit them day and night but that stay in those newly created openings for countless hours of the day.

In fact, just this week I have a WTO that I myself created 2 years ago, and on the first sunny day in quite a while both deer and turkey stayed as seen by over 160 game camera images in and around the WTO for over 7 hours solid of the day with many of them never leaving during that entire time period. The turkeys were scratching, socializing, eating, sunning, strutting, eating some more and the deer did the same and browsed away all day long. I have been using these wildlife timber openings for quite a few years with many landowners and their trend of popularity continues to grow this year as well as more and more landowners see the quick results.

Many landowners who create one the first year often decide to do 2-3 more the following year because they work so well for the many species they are managing for. In fact, just last night I had 2 more landowners call me and even send me pictures of their areas they are thinking about creating a wildlife timber opening on and wanted my suggestions and input on the size and location they were thinking about working on later this summer.

If you have done one of these simple WTO management efforts in the past, I bet you are nodding your head right now in agreement and thinking about starting another one yourself. However, if you have never created one, I urge you to get out in the field this summer and create your first one.

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Continued from Page 11 — The equipment needed is very minimal (a sharp chainsaw, a gallon of gas, a couple human hands, a pair of good work gloves and some good old fashion sweat equity). Depending on the size of the wildlife forest opening and the tract of land you can many times create one of these all by yourself, but many times having an extra pair of hands to help speed up the process or drag downed trees and brush can be very beneficial as well.

I won't go into every finite detail here in this column but the process is fairly simple and can be modified many ways depending on the specific tract of land you pick to work on to create your opening. Simply select a site and size you want to work on taking into consideration the density and type of trees located in the area, the terrain of the area, etc. Once you have the site and size (I suggest a ½ (about 22,000 sq. ft) to 1-acre (about 44,000 sq ft) size to start off and that is also a very popular size many landowners continue to have success with). However, the sizes can vary greatly from tract to tract and depending on your situation, but I always try to at least keep them at least 1/2 acre in size minimum to be as beneficial as possible to as many species as possible.

As always feel free to contact me with any specific questions pertaining to your unique situation on your land or any questions you might have regarding which trees to leave and which to cut (generally cut the non-desirable one's hedge, ash, locust leave a few if you have some of them that are more wildlife friendly desirable ones like oaks and hickories).

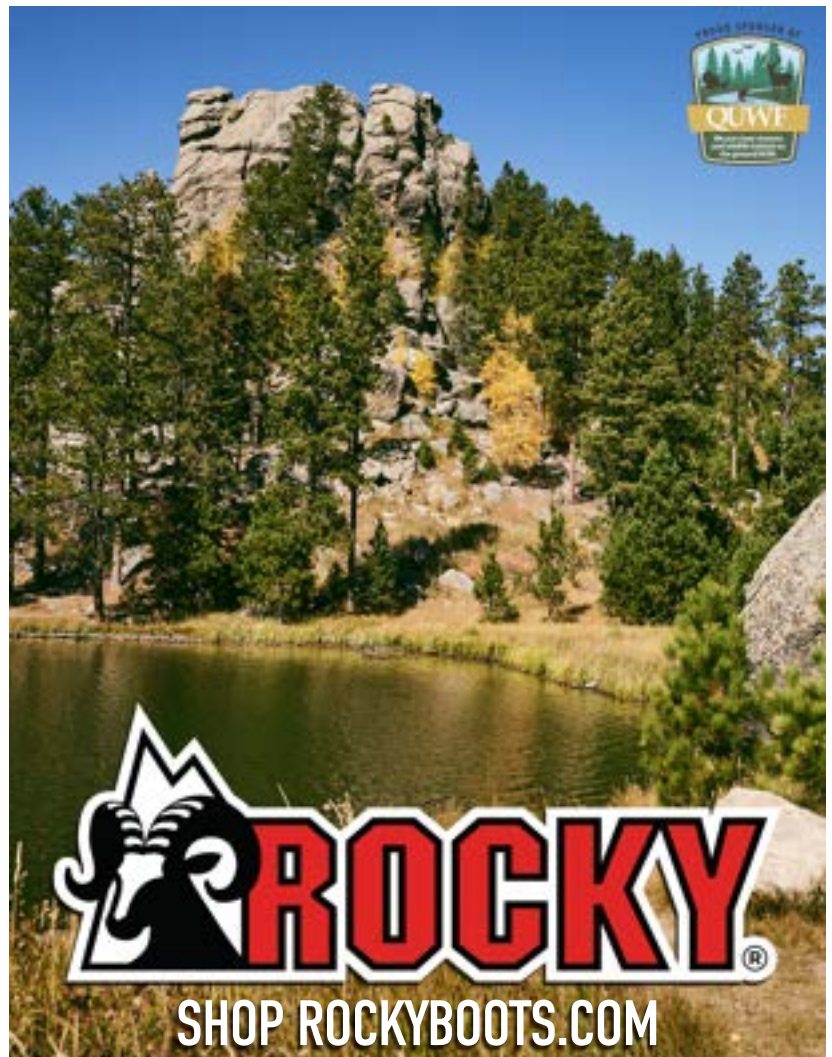
As you will see by doing this quick and simple management technique that can have a very immediate effect and additionally be long lasting on your property at the same time then go grab your chainsaw, work gloves, bug spray and head into the woods these next few months.

I continue to have landowners call with great results they in fact are seeing on a wide variety of species from deer, turkeys, quail, ruffed grouse, rabbits, squirrels songbirds, and many other species that tend to find and utilize these newly created wildlife timber openings for many years to come.

Keep up all the great work out there that each of you, your landowners, your chapters and conservation partners are doing on crucial wildlife habitat projects, youth field day events, nest predator removal, as well as all your other conservation outreach efforts, you are working on in your local communities each and every day, as you are definitely ...

“Making a Difference for Wildlife, One Acre at a Time”!

Nick Prough is the QUWF chief wildlife biologist and landowner liaison.



MI DNR habitat grant applications now open

Editor's Note: Ask your state Department of Wildlife and Conservation what they are doing with the Pittman-Roberston and Dingle-Johnson Federal License tax money? It is millions of dollars. It should be only used for habitat work, youth hunter training but may be rerouted to funding items the bills were not intended for, unless you totally trust politicians.

Now through July 29, 2025, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Habitat Grant Program is accepting applications with a focus on projects that restore large complexes of grassland and savanna habitat.

“Grasslands and savannas were once abundant, but are now rare in Michigan,” said DNR Wildlife Division Chief Sara Thompson. “By partnering with conservationists across the state to restore grasslands, we can provide important habitat for wildlife, as well as numerous benefits for Michiganders. Grasslands help prevent erosion and flooding, filter runoff, and pull carbon dioxide out of the air – protecting our water and air.” Funding for this critical habitat work is available for local, state, federal and tribal governments, and profit and nonprofit groups through an open, competitive process. Minimum grant amounts will be set at \$50,000, with the maximum being the amount of funds available for this grant cycle. The 2025 overall available grant amount is approximately \$500,000.

Applications are open now and must be submitted through the [MiGrants system](#) no later than July 29 to be considered for funding. Successful grant applications will be announced in late summer 2025. The [detailed program handbook](#) and more information are available at the [Wildlife Habitat Grants webpage](#).

Grassland habitats are home to some of Michigan’s most popular wildlife species, including ring-necked pheasants and wild turkeys, as well as some of the rarest, such as Karner blue butterflies and Henslow’s sparrows.

Many grassland species depend on large grassland areas, but those remaining in Michigan are typically small, isolated, and lack sufficient plant diversity to provide habitat for many important grassland species. The 2025 Wildlife Habitat Grant Program seeks to develop and maintain large grassland and savanna complexes of 100 or more acres and improve connectivity between habitat patches.

To learn more about efforts to conserve Michigan’s grasslands and savannas, read the [Large Grasslands Wildlife Action Plan](#) and the [Prairies & Savannas Wildlife Action Plan](#).

The Wildlife Habitat Grant Program began in October 2013 and is funded from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The DNR administers the program with the main objective to enhance and improve the quality and quantity of wildlife species habitat in support of the [Wildlife Division’s strategic plan](#).



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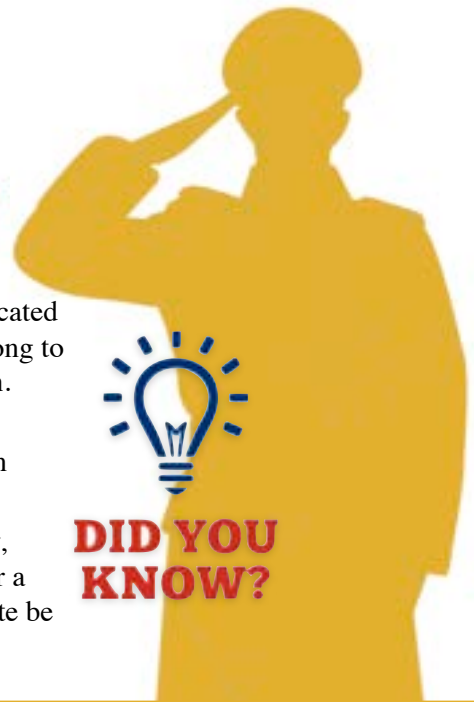
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HONORING OUR COUNTRY'S *Veterans*



Arlington National Cemetery: The land on which Arlington is located was originally owned by the Custis family and was eventually passed along to George Washington Parke Custis, the adopted son of George Washington.

- When Custis died, he willed the property to his daughter, Mary. She eventually married a young Army officer, Robert E. Lee, and Arlington became their home until the Civil War.
- During the course of the war, the estate was seized by the Union Army, which made it a headquarters. In 1964, the search for a suitable site for a military cemetery resulted in a recommendation that Cee's former estate be converted to a burial ground.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

- On June 1864, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton designed Arlington House and 200 surrounding acres a military cemetery under control of the Army's quartermaster general.
- Section One, a seven-acre plot, is the resting place of veterans from every war America has fought from the American Revolution to Desert Storm. A veteran of the Kosovo conflict is buried elsewhere.
- The "Old Guard," one of the oldest and most respected Infantry Regiments in the US Army, has the awesome responsibility of both guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery and for escorting deceased Army service members to their final rest in the "Gardens of Stone," as Arlington is sometimes called.



*Alone and far removed from earthly care
The noble ruins of men lie buried here.
You were strong men, good men
Endowed with youth and much the will to live
I hear no protest from the mute lips of the dead.
They rest; there is no more to give.
So long my comrades,
Sleep ye where you fell upon the field.
But tread softly please. March o'er
My heart with ease
March on and on, But to God alone we kneel.
Audie Murphy*



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: The marble for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was furnished by the Vermont Marble Company of Danby, VT. The marble is the finest and whitest of American marble, quarried from the Yule Marble Quarry located near Marble, Colorado and is called Yule Marble.

- The Tomb consists of seven pieces of rectangular marble: Four pieces in sub base; one piece in base or plinth; one piece in die; one piece in cap.
- Carved on the East side (the front of the Tomb, which faces Washington, D.C.) is a composite of three figures, commemorative of the spirit of the Allies of World War I.
- In the center of the panel stands Victory (female).
- On the right side, a male figure symbolizes Valor.
- On the left side stands Peace, with her palm branch to reward the devotion and sacrifice that went with courage to make the cause of righteousness triumphant.
- North and South panel with 3 wreaths on each side represent (in 1931) "a world of memories" but later the six major battles engaged in by American forces in France; Ardennes, Belleau Wood, ChateauThierry, Meusse-Argonne, Oisiu-Eiseu, and Somme. Each wreath has 38 leaves and 12 berries.
- On the west panel (facing the Amphitheater) is inscribed: **HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD**

- The first Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was a sub base and a base or plinth. It was slightly smaller than the present base. This was torn away when the present Tomb was started Aug. 27, 1931. The Tomb was completed and the area opened to the public on April 9, 1932, without any ceremony.
- Cost of the Tomb: \$48,000
- Thomas Hudson Jones was the sculptor and the architect Lorimer Rich.



Changing of the Guard: For an individual to apply for guard duty, he must be between 5'10" and 6'2" tall. His waist size cannot exceed 30 inches.

- Guards must commit two years of their life to guard the Tomb, live in the barracks under the Tomb and must refrain from drinking alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public and cannot disgrace the uniform or the Tomb in any way.
- During their first six months of duty a guard may not talk to anyone, nor may he watch television. All off-duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred.
- Guards spend five hours a day preparing their uniform. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. They dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.
- The guard's shoes are made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. Metal heel plates extend to the top of the shoe to make the loud click as they come to a halt.
- The guard's gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.
- The guard takes 21 steps during his walk across the Tomb. He hesitates for 21 seconds after his about face before he starts his return walk. This alludes to the 21-gun salute, which is the highest honor given to any military or foreign dignitary.
- The guard always carries his rifle on the shoulder away from the Tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about-face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
- At the conclusion of the Changing of the Guard ceremony, when the sergeant is retiring from the area and after he makes his final right turn back toward the amphitheater, you may notice him shuffle his feet three times. That is his salute to the Honor Flight veterans in attendance.



■After two years of service, the guards are given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as a guard at the Tomb. There are only 400 presently worn.

■In 2003, as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Congress took two days off with the anticipation of the storm. The military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, 'No way, Sir!' Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment; it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The Tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year since 1930.

■In the Anglo-Saxon empire, seven guns was recognized naval salute, seven being the standard number of weapons on a vessel. Because more gunpowder could be stored on dry land, forts could fire three rounds for every one round fired from sea, hence the number 21. The 21-gun salute was not formally adopted until August 18, 1875, at suggestion of the British who proposed a "gun for gun" to their own 21-gun salute.

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Sportsmen's Alliance exposes more corruption

The Sportsmen's Alliance has released more evidence of corruption and collusion among members of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. The most recent evidence is explained in two short videos highlighting wrongdoing by commissioners in emails and text messages [exposed by the lawsuit](#) the Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation was forced to file to uncover the egregious behavior of those dictating wildlife policy in the Evergreen State.

"We now have text messages with four commissioners colluding to meet with Washington Wildlife First, an animal-rights organization dedicated to destroying hunting and fishing in the state," said Todd Adkins, Senior Vice President at the Sportsmen's Alliance. "What's more, Commissioner John Lehmkuhl acknowledges that what they're doing mixes the activist organization's business with the commission's work, and could easily be considered collusion – but he still goes along with the plan!"

[As the video shows](#), the original meeting was presented as a chance for Claire Davis, [founder and board president of Washington Wildlife First](#), to "explain how things will be moving forward" to the commissioners. Commissioner Lorna Smith, no stranger to Sportsmen's Alliance members, also mentions that it's a "delicate" situation and that she was also setting up a meeting with Samantha Bruegger, the [former executive director of Washington Wildlife First](#) who was hired away from the Pacific Northwest to accept a position with [Animal Wellness Action as the Colorado State Director](#), which saw her spearhead the initiative to [ban mountain lion hunting in Colorado](#) last year.



Continued on Page 19

This is a promotional advertisement for RXM. It features a man in a dark t-shirt, a grey cap with "RUGGED" on it, and large black earplugs. He is wearing sunglasses and aiming a handgun forward. The background is a dark, textured grey. On the left side, the text "THIS ONE SETS ITSELF APART" is written in large, white, distressed, all-caps font. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo with a stylized bird and the letter "R", followed by the text "RXM™" and "LEARN MORE" below it.

Continued from Page 18 — [The second video showcases](#) Commission Lehmkuhl's politicking ways when it comes to the spring bear hunt and cougar season votes, while also [giving former Governor Jay Inslee what he asked for](#) when it came to maintaining "endangered" status for wolves.

"Commissioner Lehmkuhl is supposed to be a scientist, a wildlife biologist with a PhD, but in email after email and text message after text message we see him abandon science in pursuit of politicking and backroom dealing," said Adkins. "This is corruption, plain and simple, and needs to be immediately addressed by the governor."

The Sportsmen's Alliance has vowed to protect Washington's hunters and anglers from the onslaught of animal extremism that has overrun the state in recent years, and has [petitioned Gov. Ferguson to remove commissioners](#) Barbara Baker, Lorna Smith, Melanie Rowland and John Lehmkuhl. To inform and educate the public and media on exactly how [poorly](#), and at times [illegally](#), the commission has operated, we have [launched a webpage exposing the documents](#) that were turned over as a result of our lawsuit against the state. After uncovering so much corruption, we have [submitted additional public records requests](#) specifically targeting former Gov. Jay Inslee's involvement and [interference with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) and management decisions.

This isn't the first time the Sportsmen's Alliance has had to fight to bring law and order to the state. Last year, the [Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation won a Washington Supreme Court ruling](#) that Commissioner Lorna Smith, a frequent violator documented on our [webpage](#), broke the law when accepting her commissioner appointment while holding another appointive office.

"The Sportsmen's Alliance isn't going anywhere and we're going to keep exposing the rampant corruption of commissioners serving on the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission," finished Adkins. "We have tens of thousands of pages still to get through. We will continue bringing forward evidence until the Governor steps in and does the right thing."



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New section of The Guide: Made in the USA

We encourage the search to find Made in the U.S.A. product lines for purchases. With the supply chain tariff turmoil and many companies totally relying on parts or entire products lines from foreign companies, *we support American made products and companies* for the outdoor, hunting and shooting industry. We are trying to avoid the “assembled” label in that we are listing American or veteran owned companies using U.S. raw materials and processes.

If you know of companies in the outdoor category, please email us admin@quwf.net for research and inclusion. We also understand there are choices, and some categories are hard to find U.S. products. Supporting U.S. companies, especially smaller manufacturers, is very important. You can make a difference, and of course, no tariffs.

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The advertisement features a black Ruger LC Carbine rifle with a long barrel and a folding stock, positioned diagonally. Below the rifle, five 10mm Auto caliber rounds are displayed. The background is a plain, light color.



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The advertisement shows a grey Ruger Max-9 handgun against a solid red background. The handgun is shown from a three-quarter view, highlighting its compact design and textured grip.